From: Steve Parker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 9:42pm

Hi, having read the article at
http://www.wired.com/news/antitrust/0,1551,48452,00.html, I have, as a
non-voluntary Microsft user, the following comments:

The most obvious is the Gates quote : Bill Gates on Thursday defended the
settlement as tough but one that "we're really pleased to have."
If Microsoft are found to have done wrong, how come they're "really pleased"
with the settlement?

As far as MS's attempts to protect the RIAA and others, this code had been
cracked before Windows XP was officially released, so there is no
justification in their hiding code on this kind of basis.

Apart from the damage their (proven) monopoly has had on the US and
worldwide economy, the software flaws (code red, nimda, miranda, etc) which
have had such strong effect because of their monopoly, are much more
strongly felt by all companies, American and foreign.

I feel that the DoJ, America, and the world, should not accept this token
settlement, from the evidence that has been presented.
AT&T were harshly punished for their monopoly practices, which were not so
far-reaching as Microsoft's use of their monopoly. From the results we have
seen, particularly in the past six years, of the Microsoft monopoly on PC
operating systems, surely users must be better freed from this monopoly
power.

As a consumer, the major way in which I suffer from this, is in the
Microsoft Office suite which has ridden on the back of this monopoly. Since
most documents are distributed in the Microsoft Office formats, if these
were made freely available, to developers of all kinds - Windows, Mac,
Linux, even GPL developers, *then* we would have freedom as conusmers.

As for the rest of the above-mentioned article, I agree with the overall
tone of the article. And as for Jackson's removal from the proceedings,
let's not forget that the interviews were given on the (honoured) basis that
the interviews not be published until after the case.

With Regards,

Steve Parker.

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<DIV></DIV>In no way do I recommend that you:</html>